AGENDA ITEM: II.f

Meeting Date: February 13, 2014

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

HPO File No. 140202

Owner: Reed Q. Kelly Applicant: Jeremy McFarland, Brickmoon Design

Date Application Accepted: 1/29/2014 90-day Waiver: N/A

SITE INFORMATION:

Tracts 10 and 11A, Block 105, Houston Heights Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a 1,200 square foot residence situated on a 7,920 square foot lot.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Relocation of a Contributing residence

In December 2013, a different applicant requested a COA to demolish the contributing residence at 1815 Cortlandt St. The HAHC denied the COA application as they determined that an unusual and compelling circumstance was not established and the request did not meet the demolition approval criteria found in Chapter 33, Section 33-247(d). The applicant appealed the decision to the Planning Commission. On January 9, 2014 the Planning Commission upheld the decision of the HAHC to deny a COA for the demolition of the residence.

The current applicant proposes to relocate the contributing residence to an undisclosed location. The applicant has requested the application be considered under the criteria for the relocation of contributing structures found in Chapter 33, Section 33-243(a4), which requires the applicant to establish an unusual or compelling circumstance pursuant to the criteria for the demolition of a contributing structure, Chapter 33, Section 33-247(d). (The same criteria the December application was considered under.)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

The structure subject to the relocation is a one-story wood-frame single-family residence. The residence features a gable roof; a 1' projecting gabled bay on the north side of the front façade; and a 4'x6' applied porch roof on the south side of the front facade. The original square footage of the residence was 949 square feet. At the rear of the structure is a 50 square foot addition, and 200 square feet of the attic has been converted into living space.

The classification at the time of the inventory was 'potentially contributing' due to the residence having vinyl siding and aluminum windows. These alterations are considered reversible when historic housing stock is being inventoried for district designation. The house is otherwise in near-to-original configuration. The original massing, front façade features, and fenestration size and location details are intact.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

At the time of the Houston Heights East Historic District Inventory the residence was listed as a Bungalow constructed circa 1920. Subsequent research performed by staff supports that the structure was constructed in 1941 at 502 W. 20th Street in the Houston Heights, and was relocated to 1815 Cortlandt in 1970. Both 502 W 20th Street and 1815 Cortlandt Street are contained within the original 1891 Houston Heights plat and located within the Houston Heights Multiple Resource Area listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic research performed by staff included review of Harris County Tax Archives; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, historic aerial photos; and an inspection by a Senior Building Inspector who verified old-growth wood and pre-war construction framing methods.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

HAHC ACTION: Deferral

BASIS FOR ISSUANCE: - EFFECTIVE:

Planning Official Date

This Certificate of Appropriateness is valid for one year from its effective date.

This Certificate is in addition to any permits or approvals that are required by municipal, state and federal law.

Your plans must be stamped by Historic Preservation Office staff prior to submittal to permitting. Call 713-837-7963 to set up an appointment.

SITE LOCATION: 1815 Cortlandt Street AGENDA ITEM: II.f

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The Houston Heights Historic Districts contain many structures that have been relocated from their original sites. Relocated structures are not exempt from being classified as contributing to the district if they were built during the period of significance and are compatible with the character of the district. The relocation of houses is quite common in Houston's historic neighborhoods and relocated houses are frequently classified as contributing when appropriate.

The historic period of significance for the Houston Heights spans from the 1890s through the 1940s. In the 2007 Houston Heights Historic District East Designation Report it states, "the real strength of Houston Heights rests in its wide array of essentially vernacular, middle-class, and domestic architecture of the period 1893-1941". However, it is not required for structures to have a construction date between 1893-1941 to be classified as contributing to the district. The Houston Heights East Historic District contains at least 20 structures known to have been built between 1940 and 1949. The Houston Heights' historic character is defined by a diverse collection of commercial and residential architecture constructed over six decades. The 1800 block of Cortlandt Street is one of the most architecturally diverse and intact historic residential blocks, with 18 of the 22 structures classified as contributing.

The original site of the structure was Lot 1, Block 92 of the Houston Heights. Lots 1-4 of block 92 were under common ownership and assessed as a single property with four structures constructed between 1941 and 1942. On the assessment card dated 10/14/1941, there is a sketch of four building footprints; the subject structure can be identified in the sketch by its footprint shape. A more detailed sketch of the property is found on the 1967-69 Building Assessment Card that confirms the square footage assigned to each building. The subject structure is represented by the letter A, and can be traced back through the series of cards as the 949 sf structure that was the first to be constructed and assessed in 1941.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Staff received written public comment regarding the project, see Attachment A.

REPORT INDEX:

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| Current Photograph & 1970 Tax Record Photograph of Subject Structure | p. 5 |
| Photos of Neighboring Properties | p. 6 |
| Current Site Survey & Current Photo | p. 7 |
| Staff Review of Harris County Tax Records | pp. 8-11 |
| Staff Review 1970 Relocation Map | p. 12 |
| Staff Review 1800 Block of Cortlandt Building Footprints & Contributing Structures | p. 13 |
| Staff Review Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and Tax Record Photo | p. 14 |
| Applicant Relocation Request | p.15 |
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| 1800 Block of Cortlandt Photographs | pp. 22-25 |
| Heights East Contributing Structures with similar features as 1815 Cortlandt | pp. 26-27 |

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APPROVAL CRITERIA

Sec. 33-243. RELOCATION OF LANDMARK, PROTECTED LANDMARK, OR CONTRIBUTING STUCTURE

(a) HAHC shall issue a certificate of appropriateness for the relocation of any landmark, protected landmark, contributing structure upon finding that the application satisfies **one or more** the following criteria:

| S | D | NA | | S - satisfies D - does not satisfy NA - not applicable |
|---|---|-------------|-----|--|
| | | | (1) | The landmark, contributing structure or potentially contributing structure: |
| | | | | (a) Has architectural or historical value independent of its physical location that will not be diminished with relocation; |
| | | \boxtimes | | (b) Can be moved without significant damage to its physical integrity; |
| | | | | (c) Will be relocated to an area that is compatible with the historical and architectural character of the landmark, contributing structure or potentially contributing structure; and |
| | | | | (d) If located in an historic district, can be relocated without significantly diminishing the integrity of the historic district in which it is located. |
| | | | (2) | The relocation is necessary to protect the landmark, contributing structure or potentially contributing structure from demolition resulting from a public improvement project; |
| | | | (3) | The applicant has established an unreasonable economic hardship pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(c): |
| | | | | (1) That the property is incapable of earning a reasonable return, without regard to whether the return is the most profitable return, including without limitation, whether the costs of maintenance or improvement of the property exceed its fair market value; |
| | | | | (2) That the property cannot be adapted for any other use, whether by the current owner, by a purchaser or by a lessee, that would result in a reasonable return; |
| | | | | (3) That efforts to find a purchaser or lessee interested in acquiring the property and preserving it have failed; and |
| | | | | (4) If the applicant is a nonprofit organization, determination of an unreasonable economic hardship shall instead be based upon whether the denial of a certificate of appropriateness financially prevents or seriously interferes with carrying out the mission, purpose, or function of the nonprofit corporation |
| | | | | The applicant did not provide any information regarding the relocation criteria Sec. 33-243(a1), (a2) or (a3). |
| | | | (4) | The applicant has established unusual or compelling circumstances pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(d) - Demolition of landmark, protected landmark or contributing structure, or within archaeological site: |
| | | | | (1) That current information does not support the historic or archaeological significance of this building, structure or object or its importance to the integrity of an historic district, if applicable; |
| | | | | Archival research has determined that the subject structure was constructed in 1941 at 502 W 20 th St. and was relocated to its present location at 1815 Cortlandt St.in 1970. An inspection of the structure revealed pre-war construction materials and framing style. The removal of the original cladding and fenestration materials does not support a non-contributing classification as that type of alteration is considered reversible. The architectural features and construction date are compatible with, and contribute to, the historic character of the Houston Heights Historic District East. |

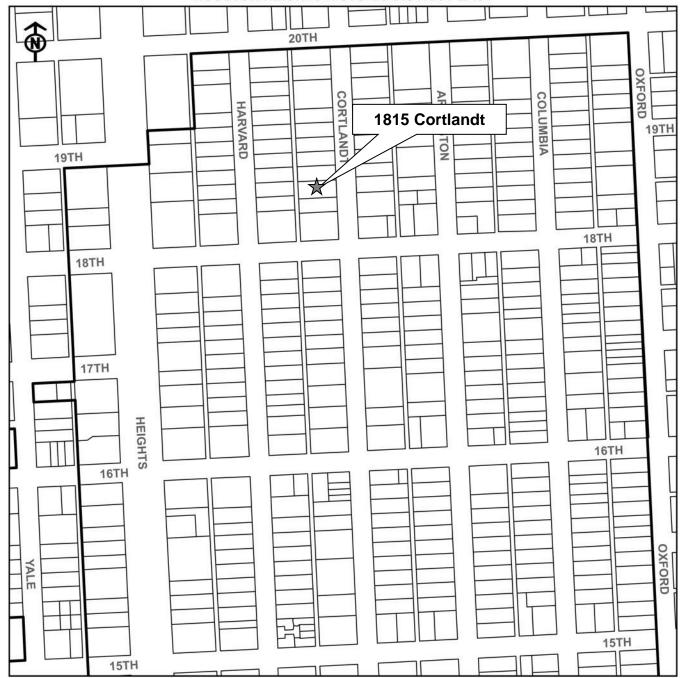
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HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East HPO File No. 140202

Site Location Map

HOUSTON HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT EAST



HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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Current Photograph



1978 Tax Record Photograph



HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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Neighboring Properties



1813 Cortland - Cont.

1815 Cortlandt - Cont.

1817 Cortlandt - Cont.



1816 Cortland - Cont.

1820 Cortlandt - Cont.

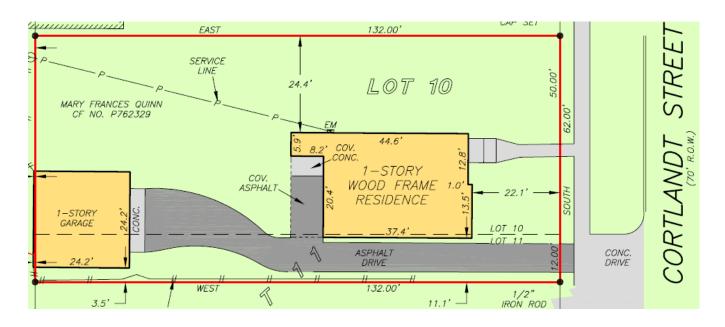
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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Current Site Survey & Current Photo





HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

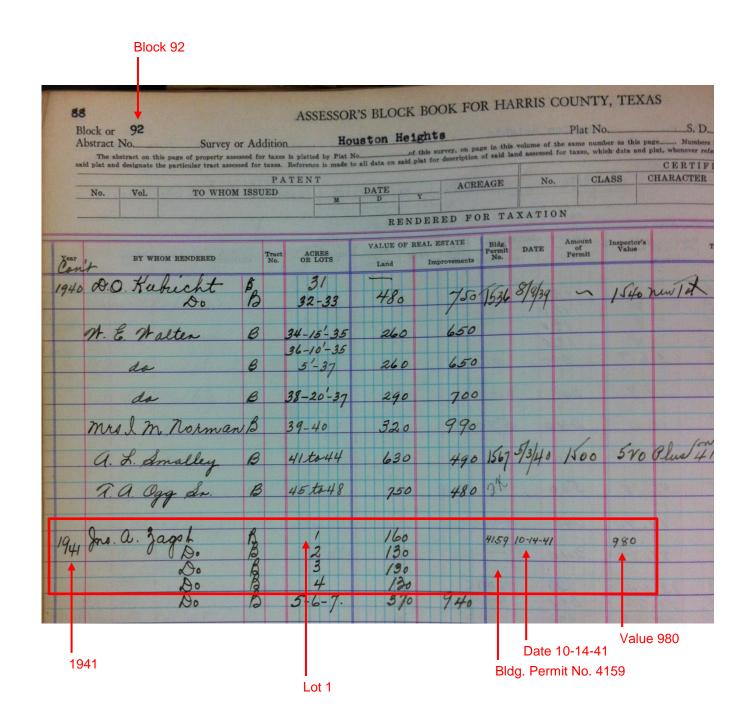
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STAFF REVIEW - Harris County Tax Records, Block 92, Lots 1-4

A Structure existed on Block 92, Lot 1 in 1941



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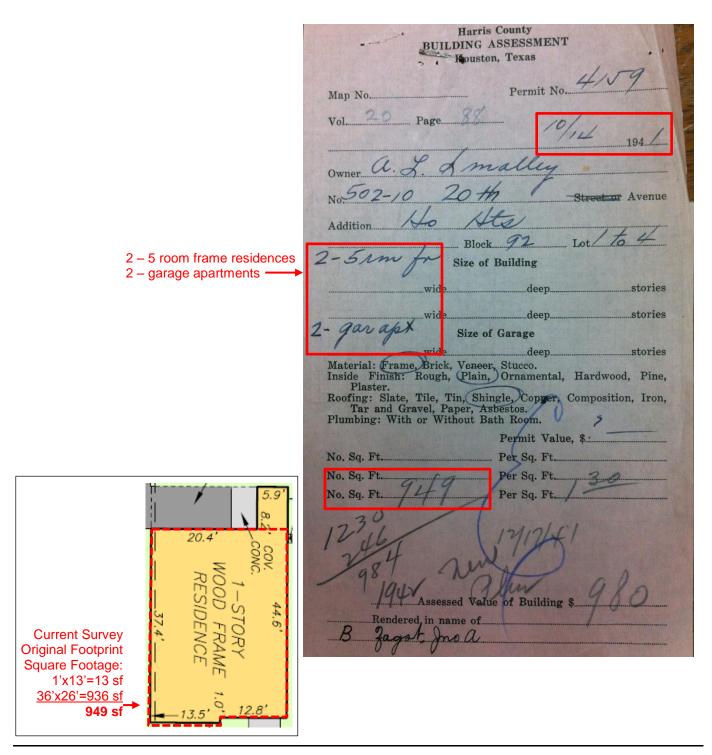
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HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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STAFF REVIEW MATERIALS - Harris County Tax Records, Block 92, Lots 1-4

A 949 square foot structure existed on Block 92, Lot 1 in 1941



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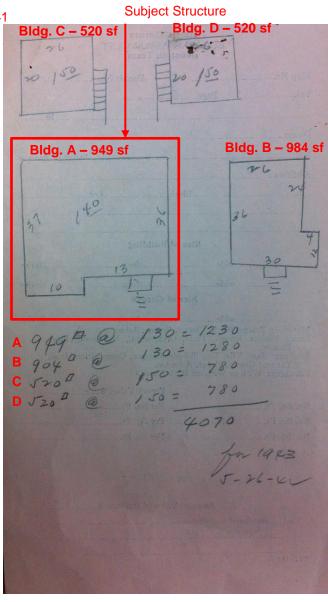
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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STAFF REVIEW - Harris County Tax Records & Current Survey

By 1942, 4 structures existed at 502/506 W 20th St. with a cumulative assessment value for 1943.

| 10-14-19 | 941 |
|---|-----|
| Harris County BUIL-DING ASSESSMENT Houston, Texas | |
| Map No. Permit No. 4/3 9 | |
| Owner 1 A. 7 AGS 7 | |
| No. Sov-1-8-10 = 20 th Street or Avenue | |
| Block 9 x Lot 170 4 | |
| 2- garaly a opt | |
| 70 wide 36 deep stories 70 wide 46 deep stories | |
| Size of Garage | |
| wide deep stories Material: Frame, Brick, Veneer, Stucco, Asbestos. Inside Finish: Rough, Plain, Ornamental, Hardwood, Pine, Plaster. Roofing: Slate, Tile, Tin, Shingle, Copper, Composition, Iron, Tar and Gravel, Paper, Asbestos. Plumbing: With or Without Bath Room. | |
| Permit Value, \$ | |
| No. Sq. Ft. 949 Per Sq. Ft. 30 | |
| No. Sq. Ft. 954 Per Sq. Ft. No. Sq. Ft. 770 97 Per Sq. Ft. | |
| 4070 X - 15-26-4 | |
| 814 new gat | |
| 375 Land 1973 Assessed Value of Building \$ 376 0 | |
| Readered in name of Smallmy To | |
| 5-42 5M | |



1943 Assessed Value of 4 Buildings: \$3760

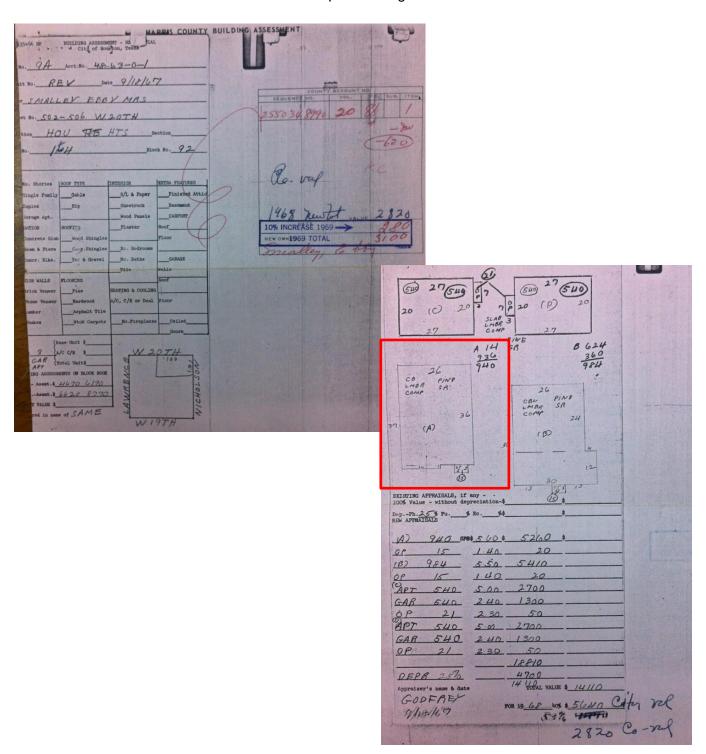
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STAFF REVIEW - Harris County Tax Records & Current Survey

1968 card indicates square footage of each structure



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STAFF REVIEW - 1970 Relocation Map



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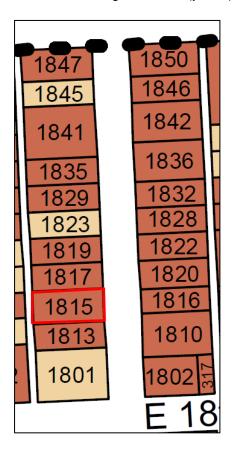
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East HPO File No. 140202



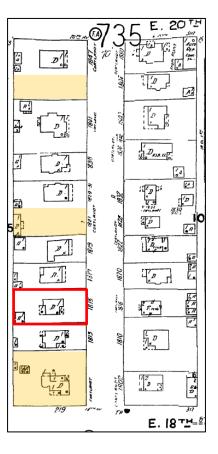
STAFF REVIEW - 1800 Block of Cortlandt

Contributing Structures (orange) Noncontributing Structures (yellow) **Current Building Footprints**

1924-51 Sanborn Map







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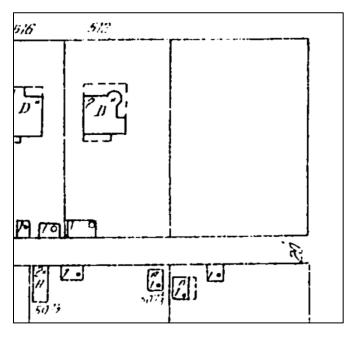
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STAFF REVIEW - Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

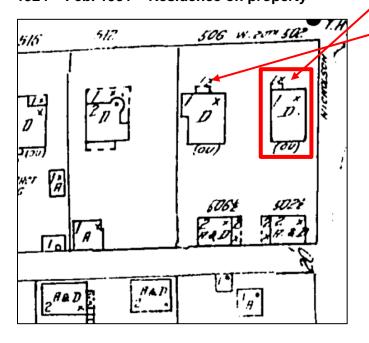
502 W 20th St (Block 92, Lots 1 & 2)



1924-1950 - Residence not on property



1924 - Feb. 1951 - Residence on property



September 1967 Tax Photo

(Edge of subject structure left side of photo)



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APPLICANT WRITTEN REQUEST

| | Description (include the following items, use the area below and/or attach additional pages) |
|-------|--|
| ☐ Sub | bject of Relocation description including current location and conditions of structure and any prior alterations or additions |
| ☐ Des | stination Site Information description of the location where the subject of the proposal will be relocated |
| Crit | iteria Adherence describe how the proposal satisfies the relocation determination criteria as stated in the Historic Preservation dinance, Sec. 33-243 or Sec. 33-244 or Sec. 33-245: |
| × | (33-243) relocation of any landmark, protected landmark, or <u>contributing</u> structure within a historic district upon finding that it satisfies one or more of criteria (a) (1) through (4), or (b): |
| | (a) (1) The landmark, protected landmark, or <u>contributing</u> structure: a. has architectural or historical value independent of its physical location that will not be diminished with relocation; b. can be moved without significant damage to its physical integrity; c. will be relocated to an area that is compatible with the historical and architectural character of the landmark, protected landmark, or contributing structure; d. and if located in an historic district, can be relocated without significantly diminishing the integrity of the historic district in which it is located; |
| - 1 | (a) (2) The relocation is necessary to protect the landmark, protected landmark, or contributing structure from demolition resulting from a public improvement project; |
| | (a) (3) The applicant has established an unreasonable economic hardship pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(c) of the Historic Preservation Ordinance; or |
| | (a) (4) The applicant has established unusual or compelling circumstances pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(d) of the Historic Preservation Ordinance; |
| | OR |
| | (b) The relocation of the landmark, protected landmark, or <u>contributing</u> structure has been identified as an alternative to demolition pursuant to Sec. 33-247(f) of the Historic Preservation Ordinance |

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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION – Presentation Page 1

1941 Harris County Building Assessment showing improved value is the largest structure which was built first. The picture shows the largest and first structure built is not the subject property. Harris County BUILDING ASSESSMENT ASSESSOR'S BLOCK BOOK FOR HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS Pouston, Texas PATENT TO WHOM ISSUED RENDERED FOR VAXATION Size of Building Mrs. John a. Zagat B 5-6-7 ...deep., ter.
Slate, Tile, Tin, Shingle, Copper, Composition, Iron, and Gravel, Paper, Ashestos.
g: With or Without Bath Room. Permit Value, 8 Per Sq. Ft.. Per Sq. Ft. Unadjusted value and matches 1943 value. This represents first home built which has the most square footage. Adjusted value of first home built in 1941. first of the 2 - 5 room homes built with permit #4159

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION – Presentation Page 2

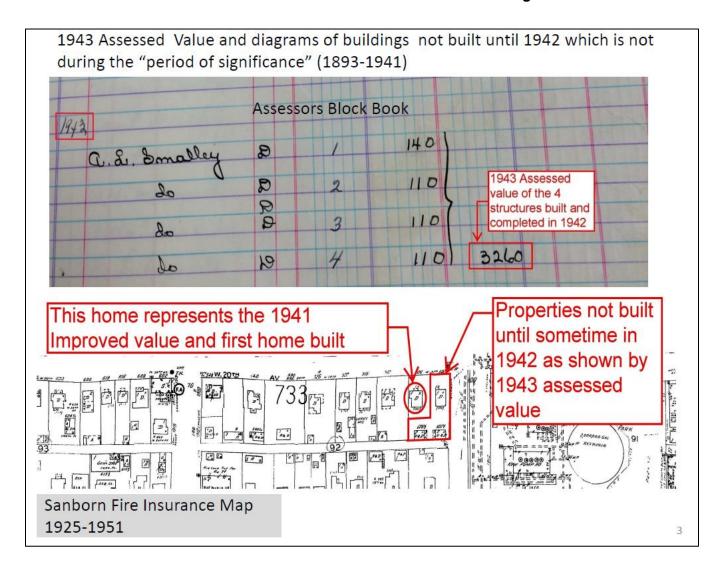
1943 Assessed Value and diagrams of buildings not built until 1942 which is not during the "period of significance" (1893-1941) Harris County BUILDING ASSESSMENT Houston, Texas 520 sq.ft 520 sq.ft Subject property > 838 sq.ft moved to 1815 Cortlandt. Not built until 1942 per garage of assessed value 984 sq.ft Matches unadjusted value of largest home built in 1941 Size of Garage Material: [Frame] Brick, Veneer, Stucco, Asbestos.
Inside Frinch: Rough, Plain, Ornamental, Hardwood, Pine, Plaster, Tile, Tin, Shingle Copper, Composition, Iron, Tar and Gravel, Paper, Asbestos.
Plumbing: With or Without Bath Room. Subject property Garage with Permit Value, \$ No. Sq. Pt. 949 Per Sq. Ft garage apartments No. Sq. Ft. 9 54 4070 V No. Sq. Ft. 520 All 3 properties had permits pulled in October of 1941 but construction did not start and was not completed until 1942 when 1943 tax values were assessed.

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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION - Presentation Page 3



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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION - Presentation Page 4

Materials used for construction of the residence are typical of modern nominal lumber sizes rather than historical dimensional lumber.



Roof Rafter 5 1/2" nominal



Floor joist 7 1/2" nominal



Ceiling joist 3 1/2" nominal



All sill beam 5 ½" x 3 ½"

- /1

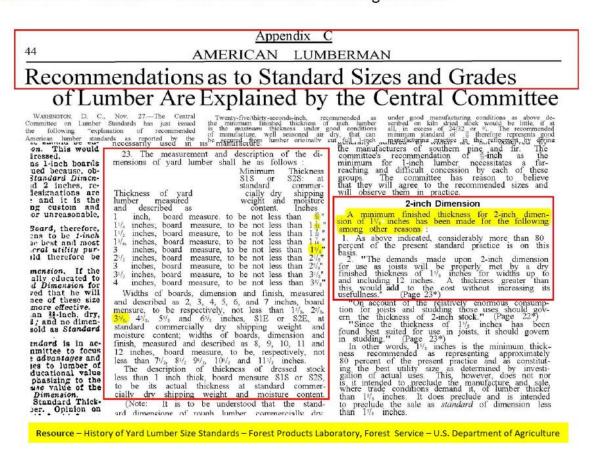
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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION – Presentation Page 5

Typical for lumber in historic buildings according to the lumber standards established in the mid 1920's is as noted in the boxes below: Our house does not meet these standards. Therefore lacks historical significance.



SITE LOCATION: 1815 Cortlandt Street AGENDA ITEM: II.f

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APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION - Presentation Page 6

Lumber Standards changed due to World War II as evidenced by the History of Lumber Size Standards. Below is a portion of the report and the changes that took place during the war. This further proves that the subject property was built after the period of significance and has modern / typical construction.

The Period 1939-1953

Beginning in 1940, the United States was preparing for or was actively at war for several years. There was feverish construction activity, and the diversion of steel to munitions put extra demands on lumber for construction. Even with the conservation of material made possible by a liberal wartime design basis, structural lumber was in short supply. Wartime price controls forced manufacturers to produce lumber as cheaply as possible. In many instances, the grade called for in design was unobtainable, and a lower grade was substituted.

The good showing of wartime timber structures under these generally unfavorable circumstances led to a widespread belief that lumber had ample reserve qualities and that deviations from standards were not cause for alarm. Builders also gained a great deal of experience and confidence in coping with the consequences of building with green lumber.

Resource - History of Yard Lumber Size Standards - Forest Products Laboratory, Forest Service - U.S. Department of Agriculture

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SITE LOCATION: 1815 Cortlandt Street
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STAFF REVIEW - 1800 Block of Cortlandt Photographs (July 2013)



1802 Cortlandt - Contributing



1810 Cortlandt - Contributing



1816 Cortlandt - Contributing



1820 Cortlandt - Contributing



1822 Cortlandt - Contributing



1828 Cortlandt - Contributing

SITE LOCATION: 1815 Cortlandt Street
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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STAFF REVIEW - 1800 Block of Cortlandt Photographs (July 2013)



1832 Cortlandt - Contributing



1836 Cortlandt - Contributing



1842 Cortlandt - Contributing



1846 Cortlandt - Contributing



1850 Cortlandt - Contributing (built 1941)



1847 Cortlandt - Contributing

SITE LOCATION: 1815 Cortlandt Street
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Houston Heights East

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STAFF REVIEW - 1800 Block of Cortlandt Photographs (July 2013)



1845 Cortlandt – Non-Contributing (b. 1994)



1841 Cortlandt - Contributing



1835 Cortlandt - Contributing



1829 Cortlandt - Contributing



1821 Cortlandt - Non-Contributing (b. 1968)



1819 Cortlandt - Contributing

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STAFF REVIEW - 1800 Block of Cortlandt Photographs (July 2013)



1817 Cortlandt - Contributing



1815 Cortlandt - Contributing



1813 Cortlandt - Contributing



1801 Cortlandt – Non-Contributing (b. 1955)

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STAFF REVIEW

Sample of Heights East Contributing Structures with similar features as 1815 Cortlandt

(flat front facades, applied small front porches with floating/supported roofs, simple architectural details)



1511-1513 Arlington - Contributing



1816 Arlington- Contributing



304 E 16th – Contributing (built c. 1940)



415 E 16^{1H} – Contributing (built c. 1940)



1615-1617 Arlington – Contributing



1414 Heights – Contributing (built 1943)

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STAFF REVIEW

Sample of Heights East Contributing Structures with similar features as 1815 Cortlandt



1136 Heights - Contributing (built c. 1940)



1418 Columbia- Contributing



1536 Columbia – Contributing



1150 Cortlandt - Contributing



1438 Harvard - Contributing



1115 Oxford - Contributing